

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to Minneapolis City Council
Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee
April 30, 2012



Minneapolis
Tree Advisory
Commission

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

Created in March 2004

by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



MISSION:

To enhance the
Minneapolis urban forest
and improve its
long-term health.

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

members

- Ralph Sievert, MPRB
- John Erwin, MPRB
- Michael P Schmidt, MPRB
- Kit Richardson, developer
- Jeff Gillman, U of MN
- Lorrie Stromme, MnSTAC
- Robin Garwood, City Council designee
- John Slack, Mayor's designee
- Scott Vreeland, MPRB
- Don Willeke, citizen
- Peggy Booth, citizen
- Gay Noble, citizen
- Jeanne LaBore, citizen
- John Uban, citizen
- Lois Eberhart, Mpls Public Works
- Steve Collin, Mpls Public Works
- Gayle Prest, Mpls Sustainability
- Karen Zumach, Tree Trust

Report Topics

- Greening Successes & Challenges
- Tornado Tree-Cover
- Using Water Wisely
- RECOMMENDATIONS



GREENING SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES



Greening Successes in 2011

Public Tree Planting



**MPRB planted
5,589 trees
in parks &
boulevards**

Greening Successes in 2011

Minneapolis Spring Arbor Day



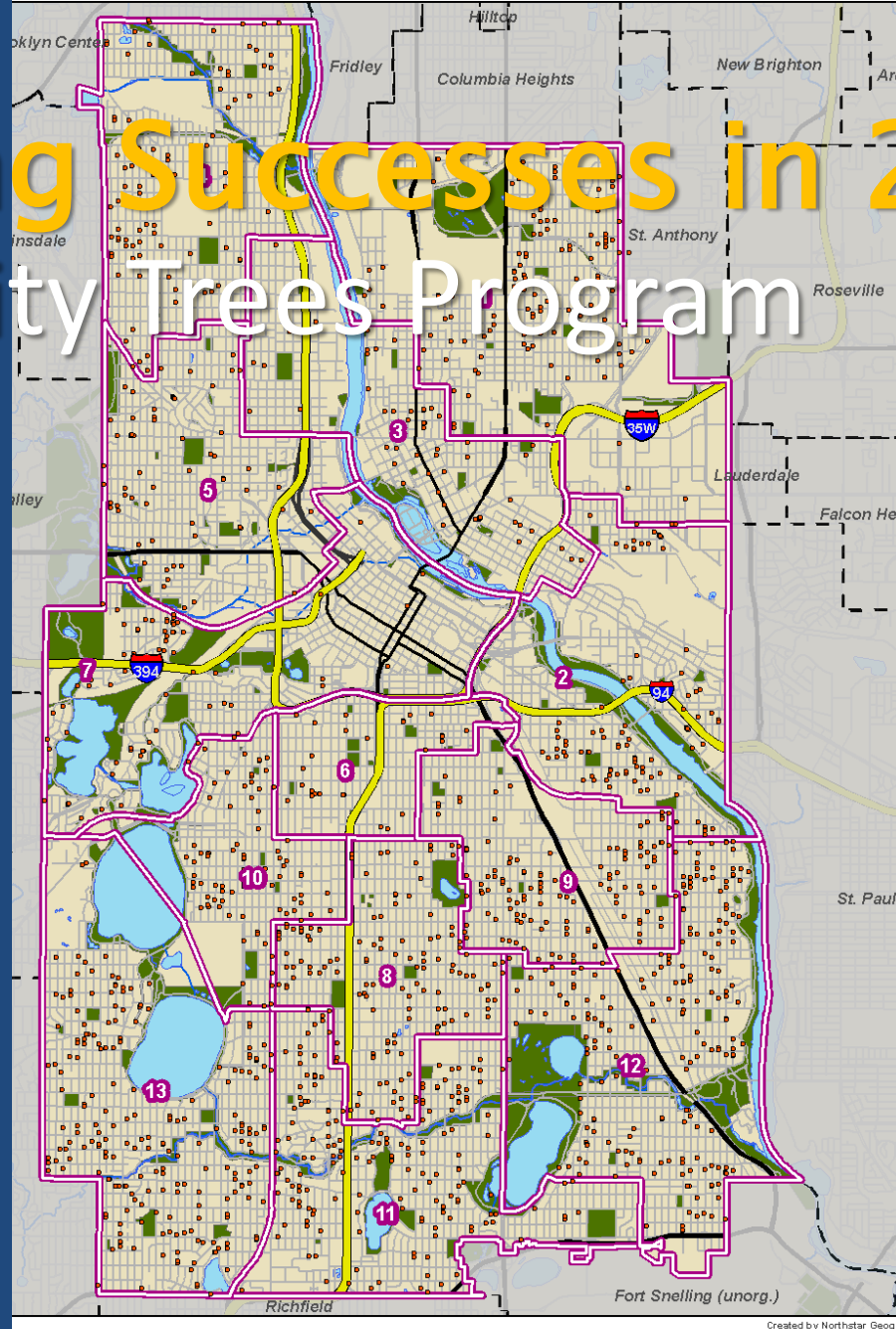
May 19th in Pearl Park



Greening Successes in 2011

City Trees Program

- most tree-planting opportunities are on private property
- 1,508 trees distributed to residents for their yards



2011 Minneapolis
Annual Tree Distribution



Greening Successes in 2011

Trees on the Mall Get Another Chance



BEFORE



DURING

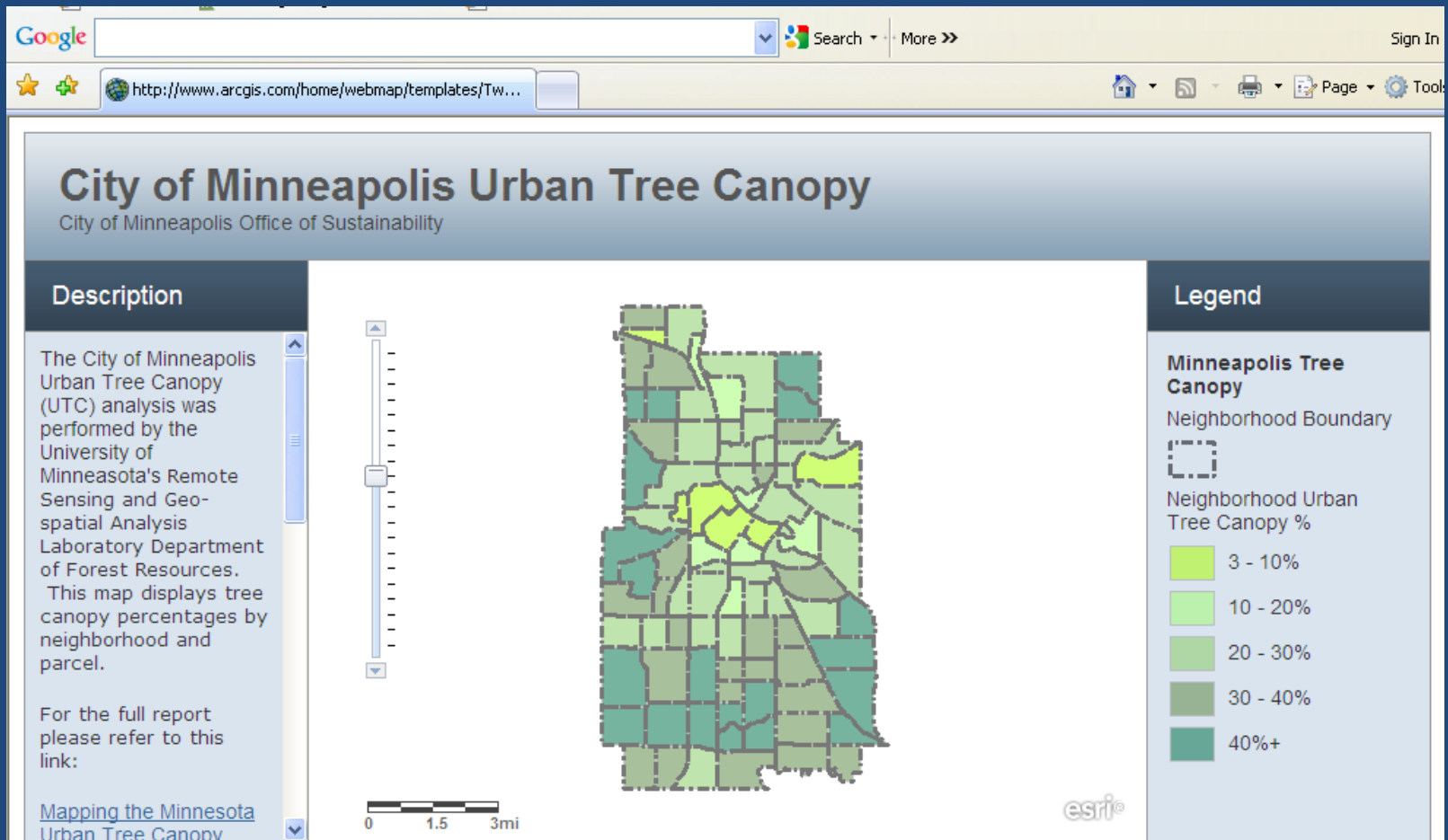


AFTER

Greening Successes in 2011

Minneapolis Tree Canopy Tool

Now available to everyone on line



Greening Challenges

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)



[MDA A-Z index](#) | [MDA status](#)

Emerald Ash Borer Status

This map shows MDA's efforts to detect and respond to infestations of Emerald Ash Borer.

Type in an Address, City, or Zip below to zoom to a specific area:

Find

Legend

Biological Control Sites



Standing Infested Trees



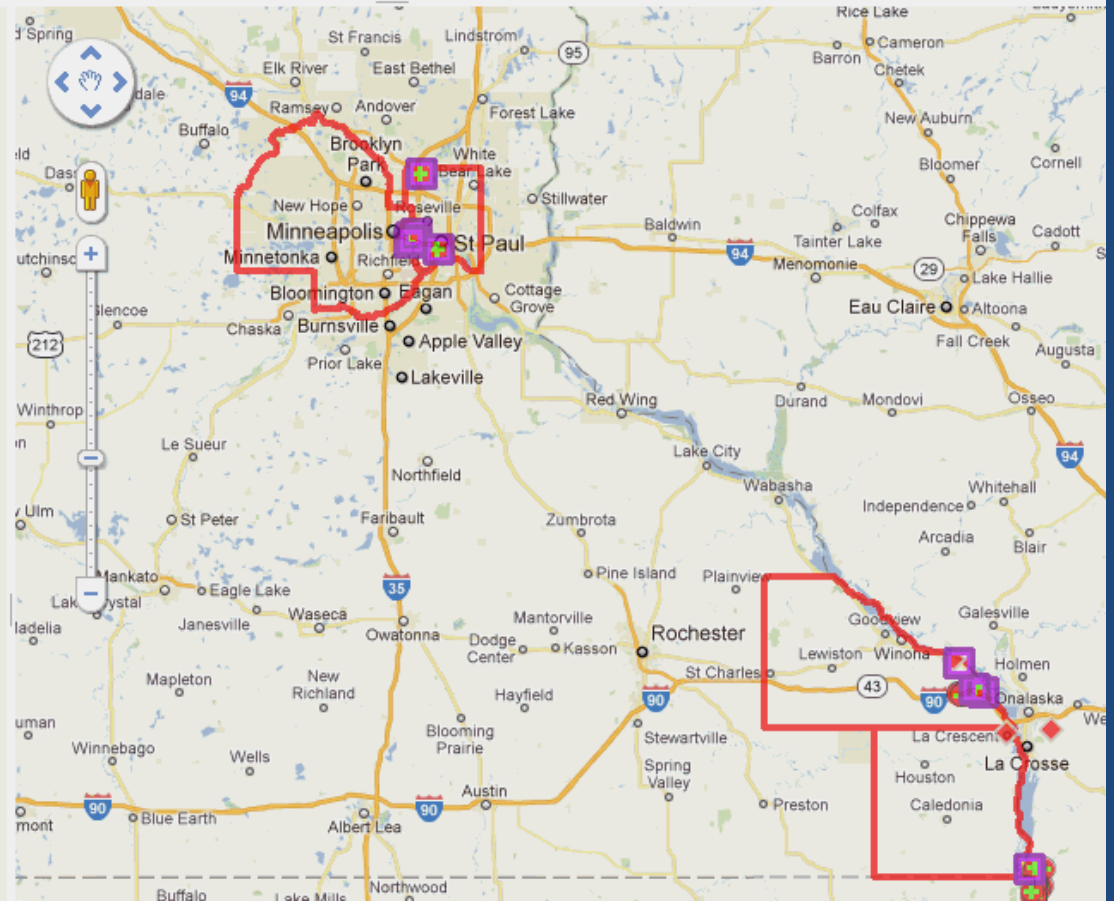
Removed Infested Trees



Trap Finds



[Quarantine Boundaries](#)



EAB Related Ash Tree Removals 2010

Total: 78

**Removal of
stressed &
infested
ash trees**



Publish Date: April 7, 2011

EAB Related Ash Tree Removals 2011

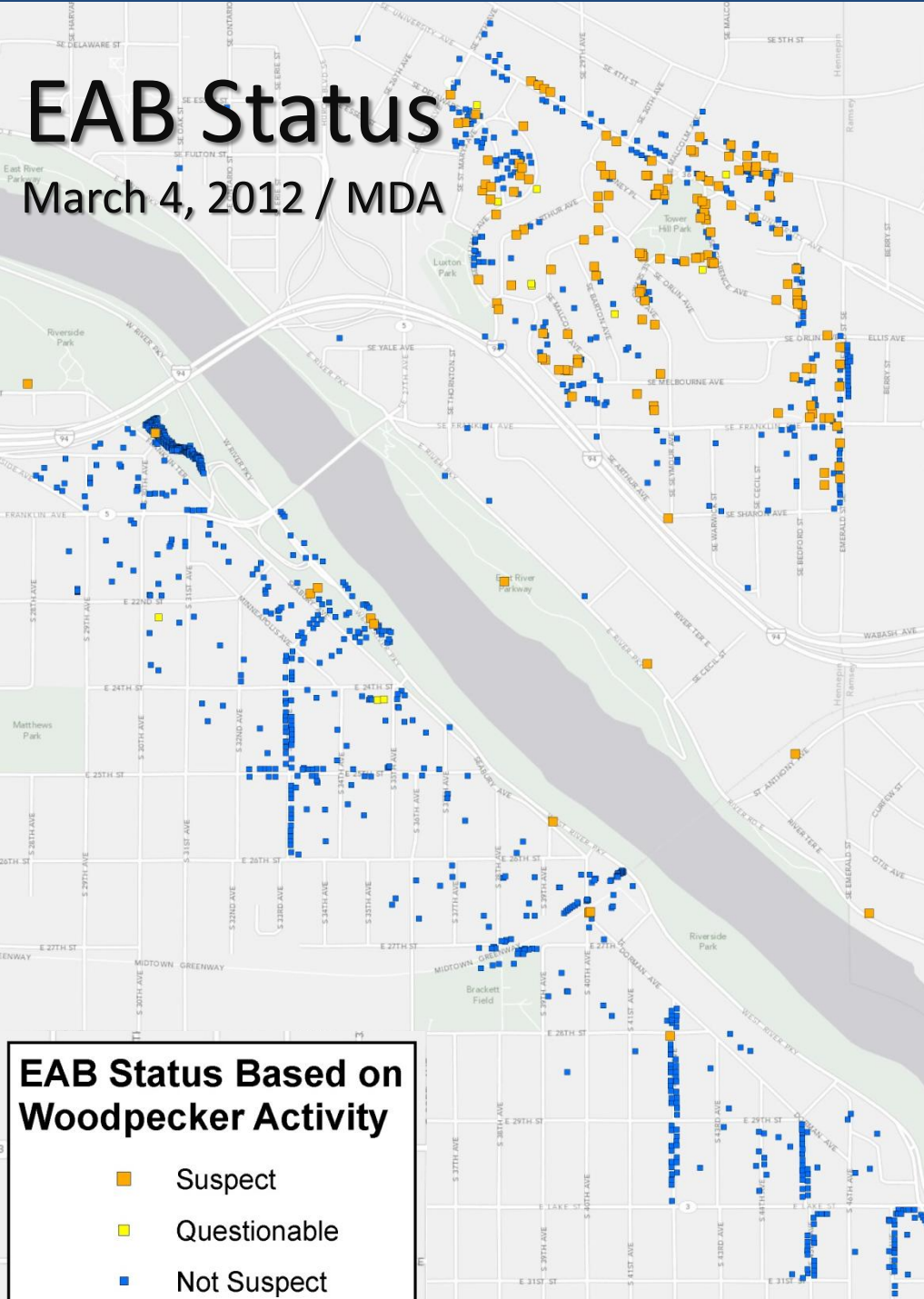
Total: 177



Publish Date: April 7, 2011

EAB Status

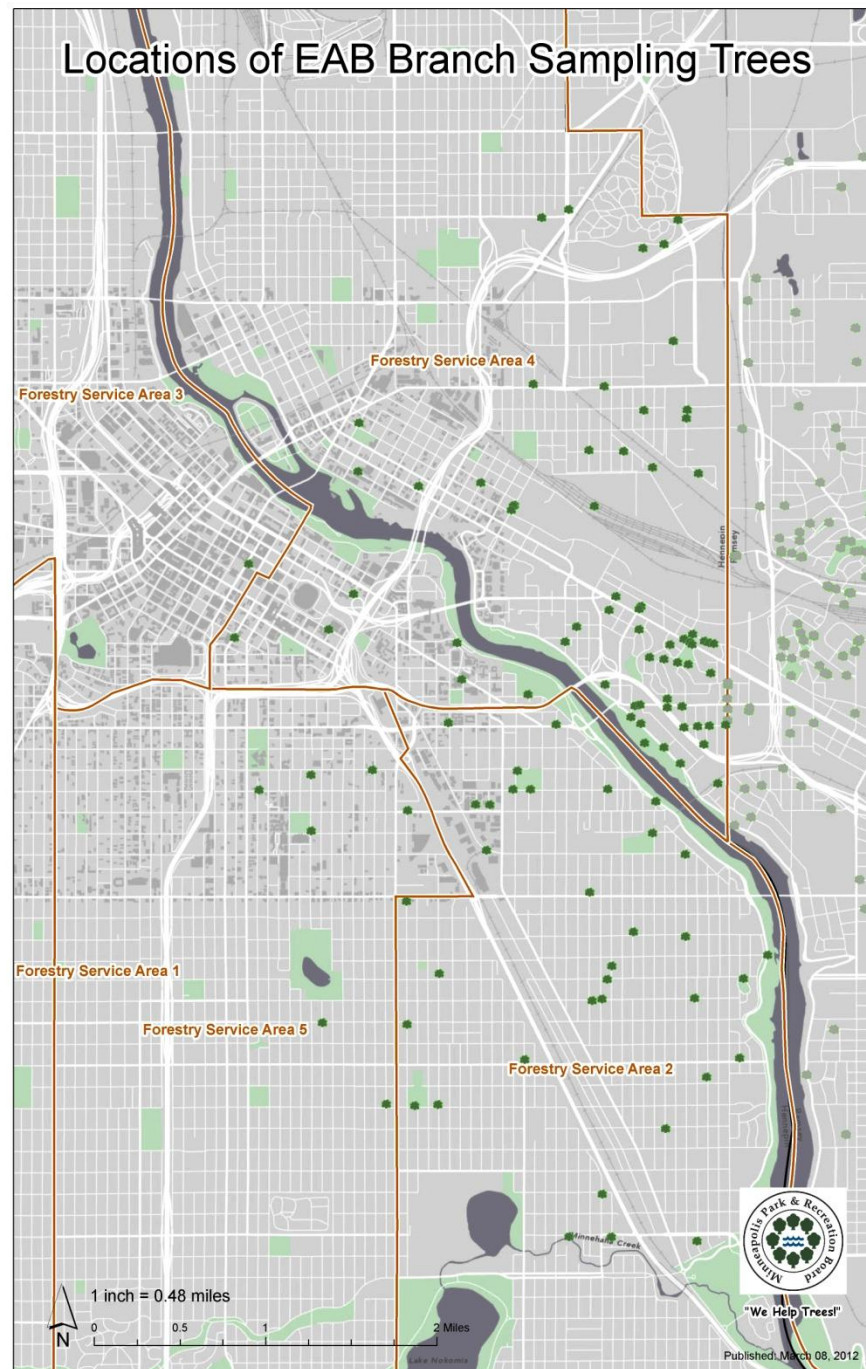
March 4, 2012 / MDA



EAB Status Based on Woodpecker Activity

- Suspect
- Questionable
- Not Suspect

Locations of EAB Branch Sampling Trees



Greening Challenges

Strategies to Fight EAB



Greening Challenges

Strategies to Fight EAB

Inventories & Management plans

For example ...

- Intern inventoried park & golf course trees
- Info for EAB management plan for golf courses
- Also for upcoming I-phone app



Greening Challenges

Strategies to Fight EAB

Publicity & Public Information



TORNADO TREE- COVERY



May 22, 2011 Tornado Strikes North Minneapolis

2600
public
trees
lost



May 22, 2011 Tornado Strikes North Minneapolis

Devastation
to residents
homes,
yards &
lives



May 22, 2011 Tornado

Major Loss of Tree Canopy

City of Minneapolis Urban Tree Canopy

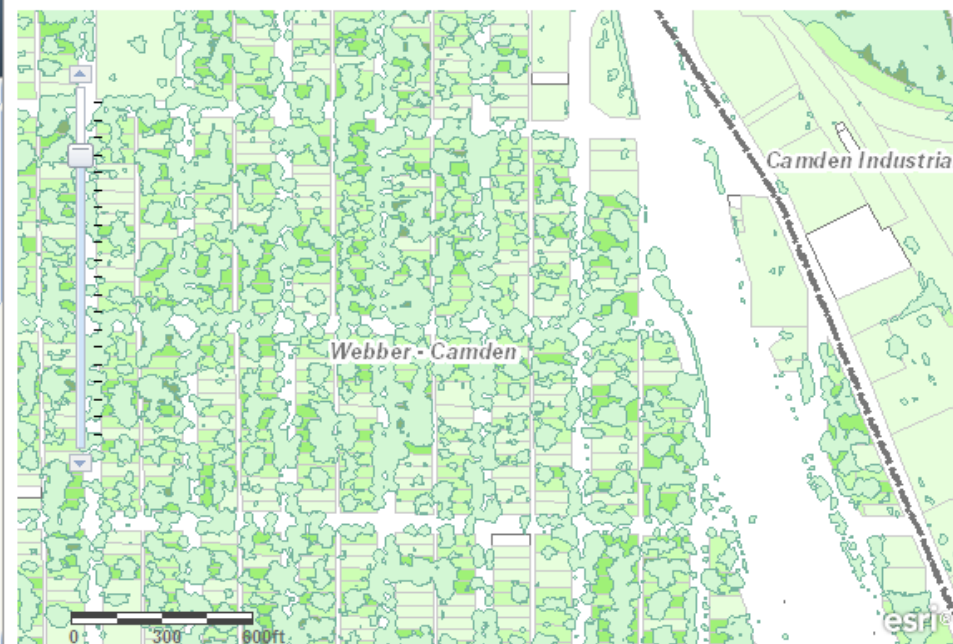
City of Minneapolis Office of Sustainability

Description

The City of Minneapolis Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis was performed by the University of Minnesota's Remote Sensing and Geo-spatial Analysis Laboratory Department of Forest Resources. This map displays tree canopy percentages by neighborhood and parcel.

For the full report please refer to this link:

[Mapping the Minnesota Urban Tree Canopy](#)



Legend

Neighborhood Boundary



Tree Canopy



Parcel Urban Tree Canopy %



0



1 - 25%



25 - 50%



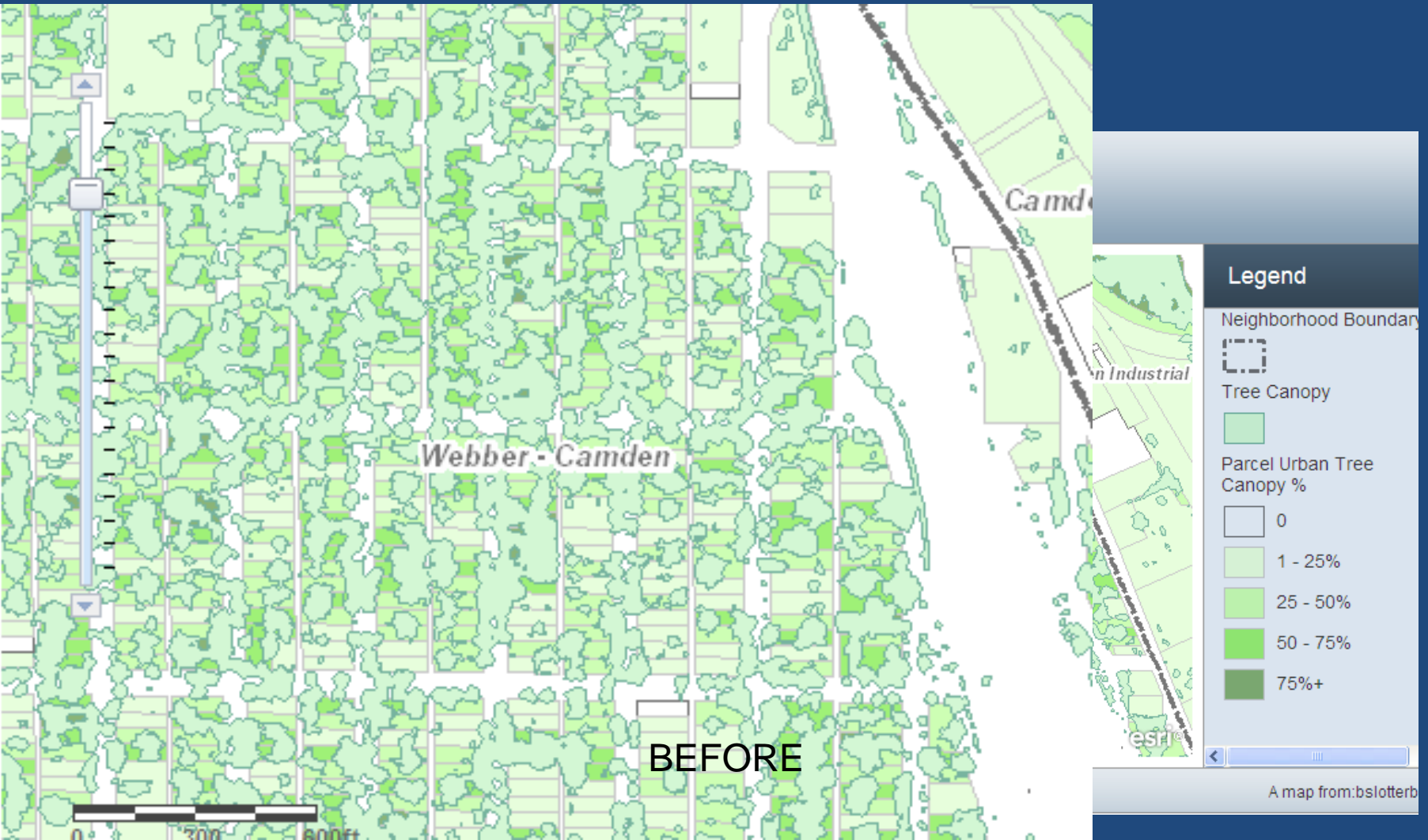
50 - 75%



75%+

May 22, 2011 Tornado

Major Loss of Tree Canopy



May 22, 2011 Tornado

Major Loss of Tree Canopy

**Loss of tree canopy =
loss of benefits of trees**

- More summer heat
- More winter wind
- More stormwater runoff
- Less quality of life

Webber - Camden

BEFORE



AFTER

2011 Tornado Response Clean-Up

5,000 truck
loads of tree
debris
removed

120,165 cubic
yards
processed &
used for
landscape
mulch



2011 Tornado Response Clean-Up



1,529 stumps
removed



Northside Tree Covery

Fall 2011 Kickoff – Arbor Day



250 trees planted at Folwell Park

NorthsideTreeCovery

Trees for Homeowners in 2011

- 202 trees given to homeowners
- Thanks to State Farm & Xcel Energy



NorthsideTreeCovery

Ongoing Action



Arbor Week 2012

- May 14-18
- 3,100 trees will be planted on Northside boulevards
- With funding support from:
Mpls Park Foundation, Lions Club, Target,
Best Buy, Cargill, Xcel & People for Parks

Trees for Residents

- 400 City Trees for homeowners targeted to Northside
- Assistance needs to go into future

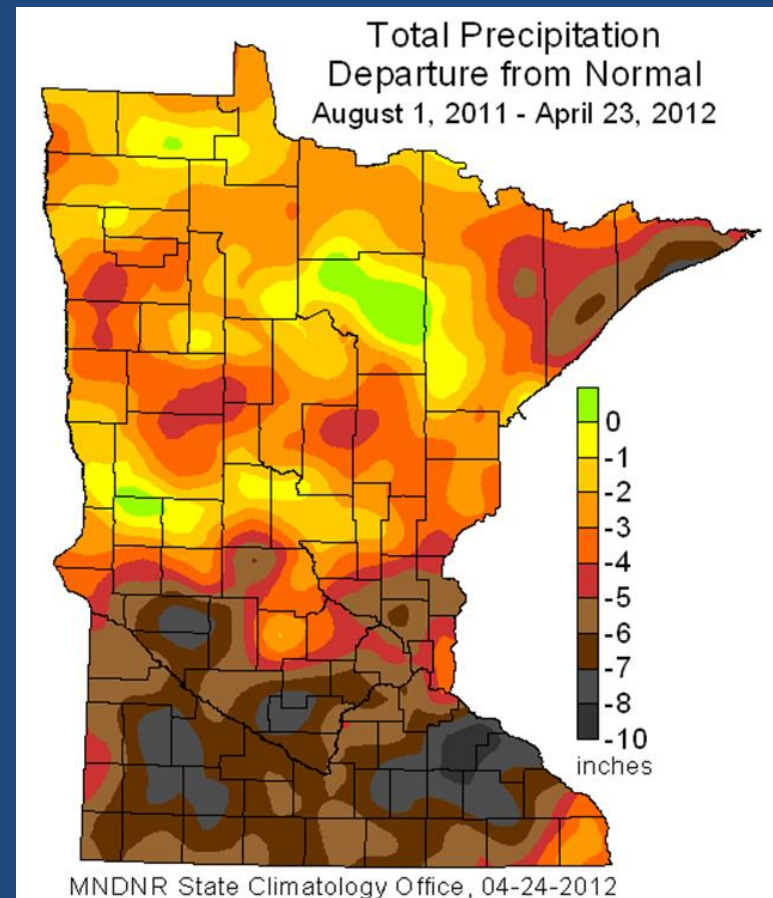


USING WATER
WISELY

Drought Emergency in 2012

Current Drought Conditions

- Autumn 2011 was the driest in Minnesota's modern climate record.
- Precipitation totals for the 8½ month period from August 2011 through mid-April 2012 fell short of the historical average by more than 6 inches for much of the southern 1/3 of the state.
- Subsoil moisture content remains deficient due to the long-term precipitation deficits

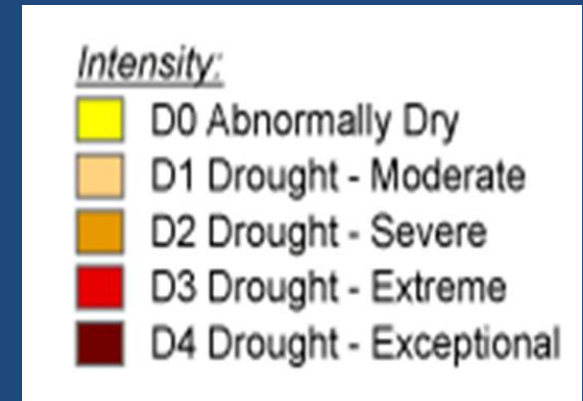
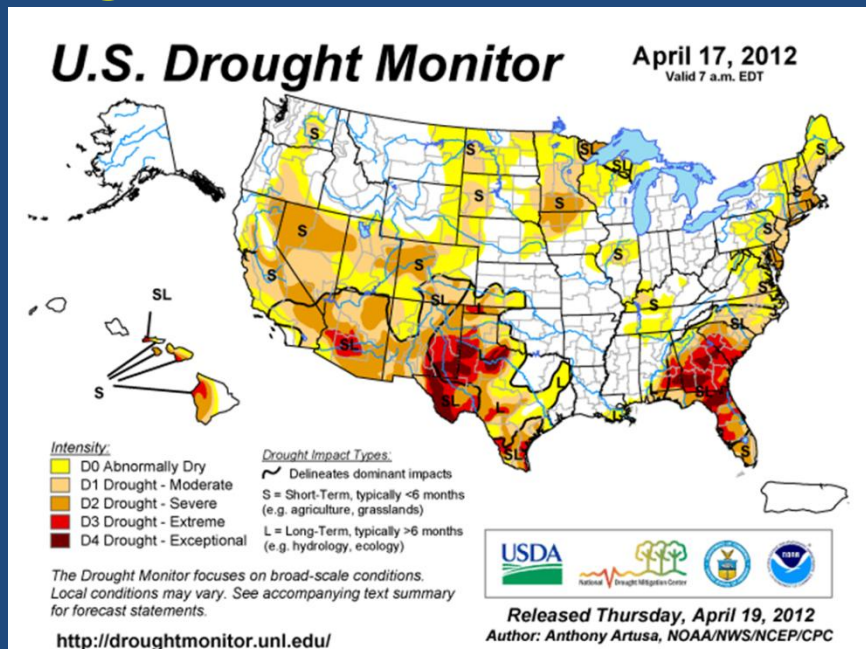


Drought Emergency in 2012

The Prognosis

Without ample, widespread precipitation in the late winter and early spring, Minnesota will face a number of drought-related issues at the beginning of the 2012 growing season.

State Climatologist, March 7, 2012



Using Water Wisely

Trees are public investment!

>> Newly planted trees REQUIRE regular watering

Drought stressed maple



Using Water Wisely



In 2011, 400 tree gators requested & distributed free to adjoining owners

> Increase use of tree gators

Using Water Wisely

Water Our Trees – A Coordinated Campaign

We Need to..

- Increase budget & resources for tree-watering
- Pro-actively implement drought-response watering plan

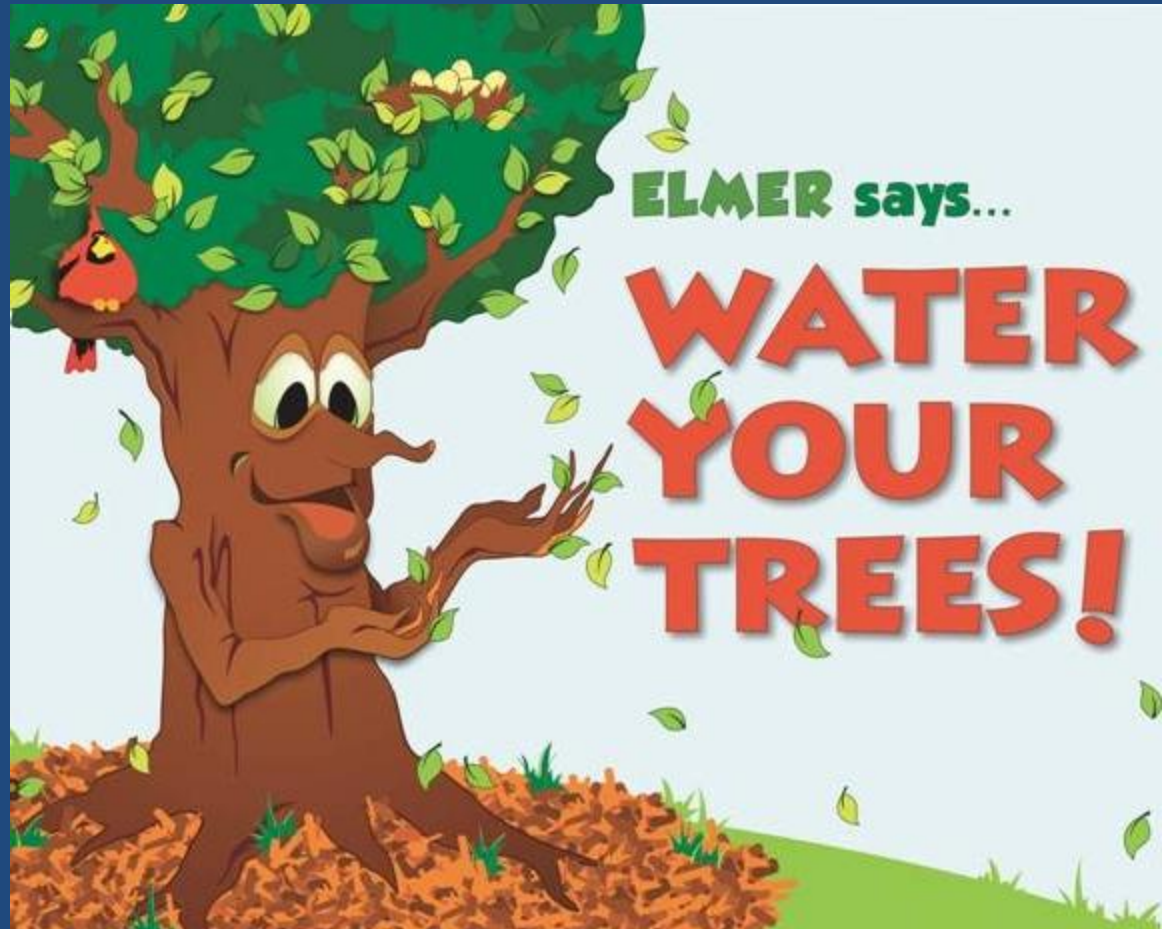


Using Water Wisely

Water Our Trees – A Coordinated Campaign

We Need to..

- Coordinate message: MPRB + city + special service districts + watershed districts
- Including “Elmer Says” stickers & door hangers



Using Water Wisely

Water Our Trees – A Coordinated Campaign

Mobilize residents!

- Costs less than \$3.00/yr to water a tree
- Use water strategically
 - > Use a gator OR lay hose at root zone so every drop soaks in instead of sprinkling the lawn & sidewalk



Using Water Wisely

Link Stormwater & Trees

- Tree canopy reduces runoff by 30%
 - Rain water never hits the ground
- Tree roots provide water-quality treatment
 - Some rain percolates into the groundwater
- Saves money otherwise used for stormwater management

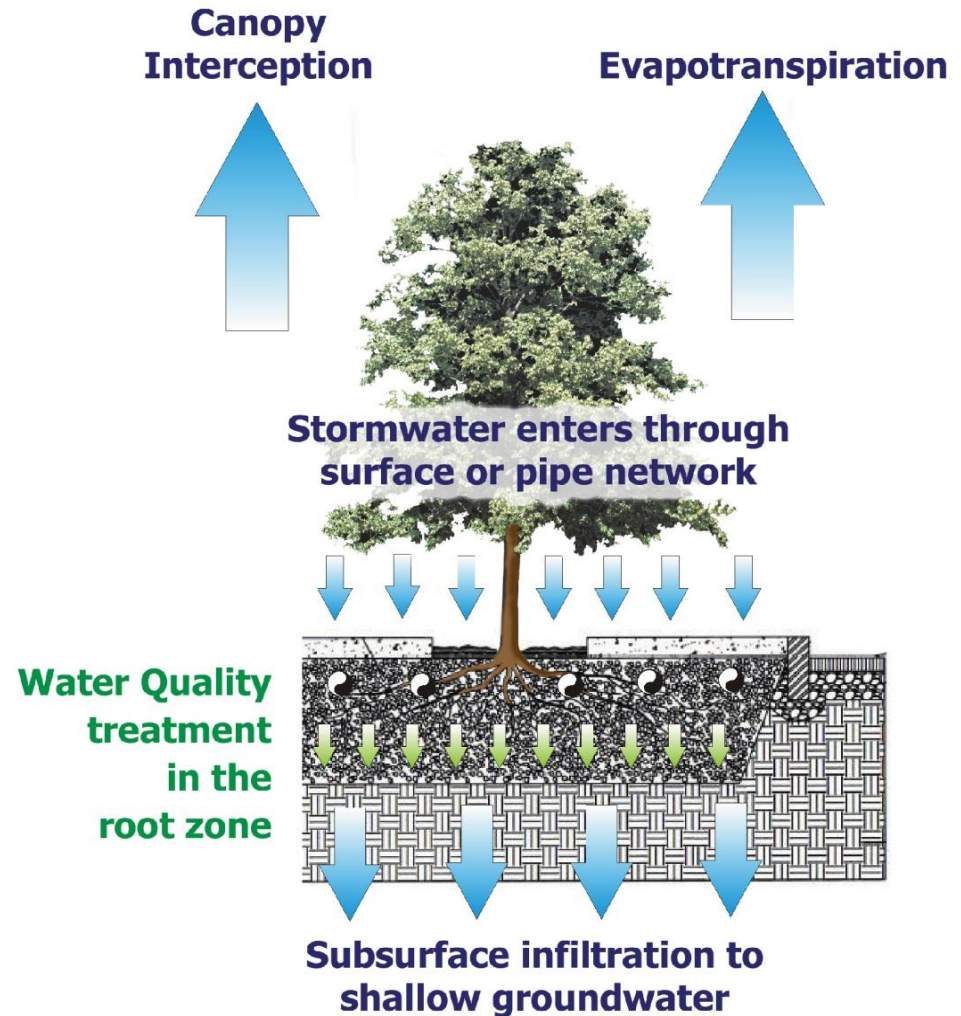


Using Water Wisely

Tree-based Stormwater BMP

Four Functions

1. Canopy Interception
2. Evapotranspiration
3. Subsurface infiltration
4. Water quality treatment in root zone



Using Water Wisely

Link Stormwater & Trees

Make every drop of water count

- Capture stormwater where it helps trees
- Use tree-friendly planting methods

“Swedish” soil technique



RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendations

Water Our Trees – A Coordinated Campaign

Implement Drought Response:

- Coordinate the message:
City, Ward e-newsletters, 311, MPRB, watershed districts
- Allocate resources to water trees – protect the investment
- Re-engage the Fire Department in watering

Use Water Wisely:

- Help trees thrive in tough places to capture the most stormwater
- Use tree-friendly planting methods, such as tree-friendly soil & continuous tree trenches

Recommendations

Increase Tree Canopy & Its Benefits

Plant Trees Strategically

- You get most bang for buck with big trees – promote planting trees that will get LARGE
- Use Tree Canopy tool to target neighborhood projects

Support City Trees

- Continue funding city trees – for residential & commercial properties
- Secure funding for future phases of TreeCover for tornado victims

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

THANK YOU

Any questions?



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